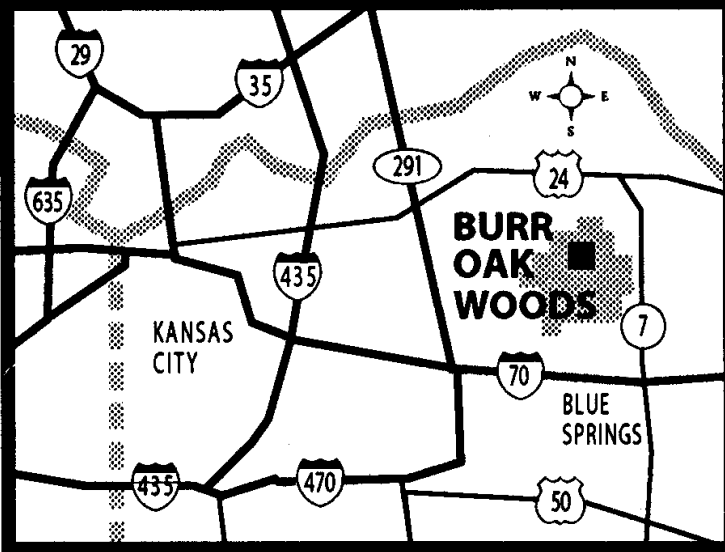


LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT:  
WWW.BURROAKWOODS.ORG



BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and noon to 5 PM on Sundays. **Area Hours: when Daylight Savings Time ends (October 31) the area and trails will be available from 8 AM to 5 PM.** No pets allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766**



## *The Nutshell*

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
1401 NW PARK ROAD - BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64015

## **Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center**

1401 NW Park Road  
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015

**Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268**

Fax: 816-655-6267

### **NATURE CENTER MANAGER**

Lynn Youngblood

### **INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM**

#### **SUPERVISOR**

R. Craig Hensley

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Joe Polka

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Wayne Bass, *Lead*

David Bilyeu  
Jeremy Jones

Rachael Butler  
Ed Miller

### **NEWSLETTER**

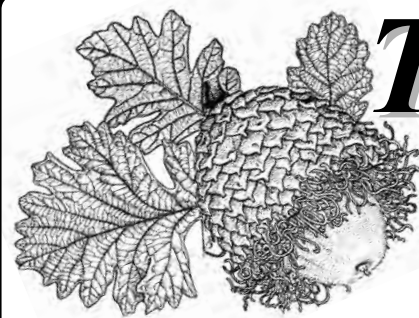
#### **Editors**

Lynn Youngblood  
R. Craig Hensley

#### **Layout**

Joan Blackmon

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JEFFERSON CITY MO  
PERMIT 274



# *The Nutshell*

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

Volume 18 **October 2004** Number 10

## **Music in the Woods Series Concert:**

## ***Discovery String Band***

**Saturday October 2nd**

**6:00 p.m.**

Bring your family and enjoy the music and magic of the Discovery String Band as they perform their “Lewis and Clark: A Musical Voyage of Discovery” concert on the lawn of Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature

Center at **6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, October 2.**

Close your eyes and imagine the sun and a warm breeze against your skin. A wild and pristine river and an entire continent lay before you. Sound romantic? Maybe, but as the weeks pass, the days often became dull and monotonous. These adventurers often used music and song to lift their spirits, and to ease the tension as they met up with native tribes along the way.

The five noted musicians of the Discovery String Band embarked on a journey to retrace the path of Lewis and Clark. While specific songs were not mentioned in their journals, there were often references to music. Through an exhaustive study of the music of this time period, the members of the Discovery String Band will take you back in time.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy this very special concert with your family! You will never forget the heroic stories and the spirit of grand adventure experienced through this wonderful original music that will truly place you in the keelboat right along side Meriweather Lewis or William Clark. Reservations are not required for this concert. All ages are invited.



Names from left to right are Bob Dyer, Dave Para, Win Grace, Cathy Barton, Paul Grace. Photo by Leela and Ellie Grace.

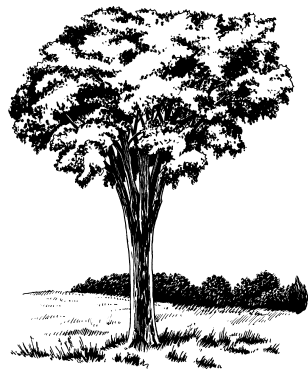
## ***Friday Night Live! Eyes in the Woods***



What was that? You stand silently, ears straining. Hairs bristle along your arms and neck. There it is again. Their howls are getting closer. What could it be? It's the animals of the night! Nocturnal wildlife always seem to be surrounded in myth and sometimes fear. ...well, they do eat other animals!

Bring your family out to Burr Oak Woods, **Friday, October 8 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** to learn about the fascinating predators of Missouri! We will unravel the myths and legends that shroud these animals in mystery, and discover their incredible story. This event includes hands-on activities, games, night hikes, storytelling and so much more! Come out and spend some time with your family...and the eyes of the woods. Registration is not required for this event.

*Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!*



## From the Treetops

The dust has settled, the hammers have been put away, the workmen have left, and we have moved back in. The Nature Center is open and it feels like home again!

It's time for us to roll out the red carpet and show off the first part of Phase I of our Renovation! The building phase has been completed and now all we need are the new exhibits.

We can't wait for you to see the new floors and ceilings, the new auditorium and classrooms, the new herp room (that's reptiles and amphibians to most folks!) and the new restrooms. It's looking pretty good around here and we're strutting proud!

We also want to thank you, our faithful patrons, visitors, and friends, whom have been so patient through this whole process. We never knew how many of you brought your out-of-town family and guests here for entertainment or as a get-away. It's funny sometimes that you don't know how much you might miss something, until it's taken away from you.

I think that's how many felt this summer without having the Nature Center to turn to for a good family recluse. Many of you still kept coming and discovered that the temporary building was really pretty nice and the kids could get a great look at the reptiles and tarantulas (that are typically off-exhibit in the Nature Center and used only in programs). Most were also surprised to find out that we kept up with all of our regularly scheduled programs throughout the summer.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding, patience, and diligence to keep coming back. We now invite you to a special **Ice Cream Social on October 17, at 1:00 p.m.** We're putting on our Sunday best and we'll have a real treat! We'll also have music, live animals (of course) and so much more. Please join us to celebrate the completion of this wonderful building!

 — LYNN YOUNGBLOOD  
Nature Center Manager



## 2004 Rainbow 5K Walk/Run

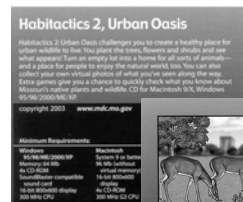


**Sunday, October 10**

You are invited to Burr Oak Woods to take part in the annual Rainbow 5K Walk/Run that directly benefits the children and adults with special needs that Rainbow Center and Rainbow Options I & II serve. In memory of Marc Charde, this is an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Burr Oak Woods and get some great exercise with other local walkers and runners.

There will be fundraising incentive prizes and post-race prizes for top finishers and "Pot of Gold" prizes for all participants as well as food and drink. **Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the race beginning at 9 a.m.** The fees to participate or walk are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the event. For more information, please contact Peggy Britton at 816-229-3869.

## Nature Shop News



### October Featured Product Habitactics 2:

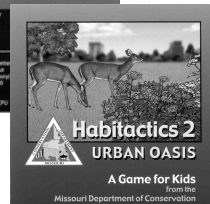
Urban Oasis

CD game

Regular Price \$10.00

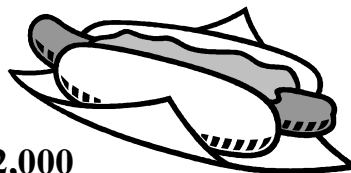
**Feature Price \$8.00**

Heritage Card Discount  
Does Not Apply



## Thank You!

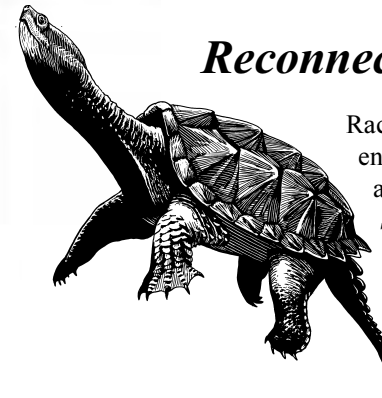
Thank you to  
**Cosentino's**  
**Price Chopper**  
for donating 2,000  
lunches for Prairie Day.



**Lots of fun and good eating  
was had by all!**

## ~ Naturalist Notebook ~

### Reconnecting



Rachel Carson, famous environmentalist and author of *Silent Spring*, documented the use and devastating impact on wildlife of DDT, DDE and other toxic

chemicals in the fifties and sixties. She also wrote another book entitled *A Sense of Wonder*. In it, she writes about children and their sense of wonder about the world and their need to explore and discover all the wonderful things that are out there in nature, from the smallest ants to the tallest trees.

For adults, however, that sense of wonder seems to disappear as we get on with the tasks of raising a family, making money and the like. This is particularly true for those who become "citified" as I like to call it. However, for those who were raised in a family where hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and other outdoor pursuits were routine, that desire to be outdoors still remains.

I, for one, grew up fishing, not so much as a family matter, but as something I just loved to do. It proved to be a great way to connect with my grandfather and today, with my son. I also spent countless hours fishing with my best buddy and while we didn't always have the best luck, it gave us the added benefit of exploring the world around us. We would spend time looking under rocks, trying to catch frogs or snapping turtles and looking at birds and other wildlife that invariably used the ponds and lakes we fished.

Through this love of the natural world I became a naturalist. For me there is nothing I would rather do. Not only do I get to share my love of nature with others, I get to strengthen my sense of wonder every

time I am outdoors. I am still thrilled at the discovery of a butterfly, a wildflower or some other organism I have never seen before. I am still blown away when I look up into the star-filled heavens and see the Milky Way painted across the summer sky. The greatest thing about it all, is that it is out there for all of us, every day, all we need to do is get out there in it.

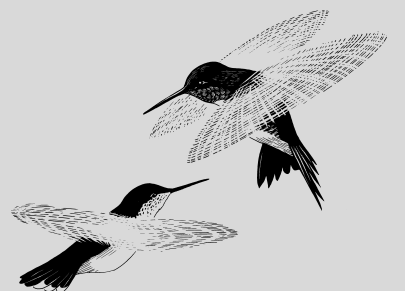
October is a great time of year to get outdoors and rekindle that sense of wonder that is within each of you. Go fishing, hunting, ride a bike or just go for a walk along a nature trail. The point is to just do it. Use this beautiful month to reconnect with the natural world, whether it is in your backyard, at Burr Oak Woods, or one of the other wonderful Conservation Areas throughout the state. The natural world beckons, heed the call. I know I will.

—R. Craig Hensley



### - Natural Happenings -

- Say goodbye to your local bat population—this is the time they move to their winter caves.
- Hummingbirds have finished their migration, but waterfowl like green-winged teal are just beginning their journey south.
- October is the month to take a long family drive and enjoy all the beautiful fall colors.
- Many animals are beginning to hibernate this month, including snakes and frogs.
- Spider "migration" is under way. They "balloon" to new locations by catching wind currents with their thread.







## Flora-bunda

### Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

- Smooth sumac is often found growing in pastures and along wooded edges. It is considered invasive to prairies.



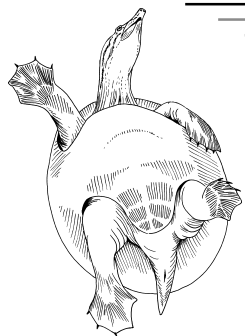
- The roots and the pulp of the stalk can be used to make a natural light yellow dye.
- The leaves are rich in tannins that were used historically in the tanning of leather.
- Smooth sumac was collected by Indians as an antibiotic, used to treat sore mouths and throats, and to prevent tooth decay.
- This shrub has been used as a food source since ancient times. The remains of an elderly woman was discovered within a prehistoric bluff dwelling in the Missouri Ozarks. Upon examination, it was determined that the last meal she consumed was that of the sumac berry.
- Sumac berries, collected during autumn, make an interesting and refreshing drink, similar to lemonade.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Reminder!

It's that time again...  
Daylight Savings time begins  
**October 31.**

The Building and front gate will  
close at 5:00 pm.



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We are pleased to let people know about  
several of the programs offered by the  
Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake  
City Range. Be sure to call their number to  
register for these special programs.

### Lake City Range Programs

816-229-4448

28900 E Argo Road

Grain Valley, Mo 64029

### *Deer Hunting with a Bow*

**October 6, Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

A basics of archery class covering information to make you a better bow hunter. Topics such as equipment set-up, stand selection, shot placement, and more. If you have questions about your bow or its maintenance, bring it with you.

Registration is required by calling 816-229-4448.

### *Smoke Pole Basics*

**October 16, Saturday, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

Whether you shoot an Inline, Side Lock or Flint Lock, a little help makes hunting with these firearms a lot easier. We will cover some of the basics of firearm care, loads, powders and even challenge your shooting skills on the range.

Registration is required by calling 816-229-4448.

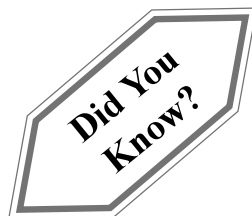
### *Deer Season Sight-In Hours*

**October 20, Wednesday - Sunday,**

**10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

The hours will be in effect until November 12.

Avoid the crowds and get your firearm sighted in early. Remember all shooters must provide eye and hearing protection for shooting.



- Migrating ducks can fly at speed of up to 50 miles per hour.
- More than 150 species of birds depend upon Missouri's Wetlands at some time of the year.
- Wood ducks are the only ducks in North America that regularly perch in trees. You can spot one nearly any time of the year.
- Fish can grow larger every year, they stop growing for a period of time each winter when the water is very cold and there is very little or no food.
- Horsemint, also known as bee balm or wild bergamot, grows in open areas near the forest edge and can be found on the Burr Oak Woods Prairie. The oil of the bergamot leaves has long been used to flavor foods and beverages.
- The gray squirrel's eye lens is yellow, giving it better sight in bright light.



# Lewis and Clark Journal



All across this beautiful state people are experiencing Lewis and Clark firsthand. These two men, along with their crew, saw Missouri in its wildest days. They truly roughed it through her harsh conditions and loved it through her never ending prairies. Won't you join me as I take you to places of importance on the Lewis and Clark journey that occurred within Missouri?

Let's start in St. Louis at the first fort built west of the Mississippi River. This is also the place where the Lewis and Clark expedition spent their first night outbound and their last nights homebound in Missouri. Fort Belle Fontaine Historic Site is where you can look out at a panoramic view of the Missouri River from atop the bluff and experience the awe and wonder that the men felt. This Fort was used as army headquarters and for Indian affairs in the western United States.

Moving slightly west we reach St. Charles, MO, host to the Lewis and Clark Center. This museum stands at the spot of one of the expedition's campsites. A replica of the camp presents life on the river 200 years ago. Here you will encounter exhibits showing Indian artifacts, flora, fauna, rocks, fossils and minerals from the expedition.

Following the river west we come to a place called 'Tavern Rock'. Lewis nearly fell to his death here while climbing onto an outcropping of rock atop the bluffs to collect a plant for President Jefferson. Come explore this area if you have an adventurous spirit and want to relive the uncertainties of the westward journey.

Lewis and Clark spent 3 days in Kansas City on their Pacific-bound trek. They camped above the city's future location and rested after an exhausting cross-state trip on our unpredictable and challenging river.

On their return trip they stopped here again and climbed a hill to view the Missouri and Kansas rivers. This place is now Lewis and Clark Point in Case Park. It is a perfect getaway close to home where you can relive the Corps of Discovery's excitement about the many new discoveries brought about by the journey.

'Gosling Lake' is another Missouri treasure and can be found north of Kansas City. It was given its name by the men of the expedition because of the large numbers of young geese they saw there. This is an oxbow lake, which means it used to be part of the river channel before it changed course and therefore it contains a great diversity of wildlife. This lake is within the borders of Lewis and Clark State Park. This State Park offers camping, fishing, swimming and picnic possibilities.

The Bald Pate Prairies, now known as the Loess Hills, in northern Missouri hosted the crew on their last nights in Missouri before heading further north and west. These beautiful prairies surrounded the men and provided them with a meal of four deer and two fat catfish before leaving our borders. A portion of this prairie remains intact for your viewing pleasure. Experiencing a true prairie is an amazing experience because it offers a glimpse of what the majority of Missouri looked like to Lewis, Clark and their men.

These are only a handful of sites along the expedition's route that you can visit. Whether by auto, bike, boat or foot, miles of trails and many sites are waiting to be seen. A simple search on websites such as [www.visitmo.com](http://www.visitmo.com) or <http://lewisandclark.missouri.org/> will bring you a multitude of travel ideas relating to Lewis and Clark. Now get out there and *explore Missouri!*

-Jenna Rhodes

## Critter Corner



### *Carolina Parakeet*

Imagine exploring the Missouri River 200 years ago, looking out across the land and seeing flocks of what looked like tropical parrots flying through the sky. That was just one of the amazing sights that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark got to experience as they took their voyage up the Missouri River.

Lewis and Clark were the first to record this beautiful bird west of the Mississippi. In fact, they were such a common sight that Clark mentioned them in a casual manner: **Captain Clark, "June 26, 1804—Observed a great number of Parrot queets this evening."**

The Carolina parakeet was the only native North American parakeet, it is now extinct. It was described as a colorful bird with a green body and a yellow head with a splash of orange around the bill, eyes, and forehead. They could be found in great numbers either roosting in swampy forests or flying over fields in search of food. Carolina parakeets were seed eaters preferring cockleburrs, but when those were not available they would feed in orchards and croplands.

Due to their fruit-eating preference, farmers considered these beautiful birds a nuisance and would shoot them in great numbers when spotted eating their crops. These birds were also collected for their feathers which were used in women's hats. Amazingly, Carolina parakeets were hunted and used for food. In fact, Lewis and Clark's journals often mentioned hunters returning with "paroquets" while on the Missouri River.

The last know Carolina parakeet in Missouri was reported on July 18, 1905 with the last surviving parakeet dying in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.

-Stephanie Acers

# October Programs

## Program Registration

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) on or after the first of the month to register for the **FREE** programs listed on this page. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

2 Saturday

### Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Owl Be Seeing You

October reminds us of owls and other night time creatures. Discover the amazing adaptations of owls, and make an owl craft to take home. Please call to register.

**Ages: 3 - 12**  
**Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

2 Saturday

### Music in the Woods: Discovery String Band

See details on the front page and page 3. No registration required.

**Ages: All ages**  
**Time: 6 p.m.**

8 Friday

### Friday Night Live! Eyes in the Woods

See details on the front page. No registration required.

**Ages: All Ages**  
**Time: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

9 Saturday

### Adults Only: Paintbrush Prairie Trip

Join IPS Craig Hensley for a trip to one of Missouri's premiere native prairies. Paintbrush Prairie is a highly diverse 314-acre Conservation Area that hosts a wide variety of unique wildflowers. We'll also look for area butterflies and birds as we hike through this remnant of what much of Missouri once looked like. Be sure to dress for the weather, pack a lunch and bring water. Please call to register.

**Ages: Adults 18 and up**  
**Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

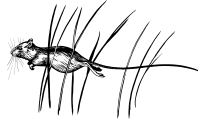
9 Saturday

### Babes in the Woods

Your child is never too young to be outside and enjoy what nature has to offer. During this program we will share ideas and activities to help your infant or toddler take steps down the path of outdoor discovery.

Please bring a stroller. Please call to register.

**Ages: Infant - 2**  
**Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**



9 Saturday

### Fall Nature Hike

Red, orange, yellow...Ahh, the colors of fall. Come and enjoy all these beautiful colors with us as we hike down the Bethany Falls trail. Dress for the weather and bring water. Note: meet at Bethany Falls. Please call to register.

**Ages: Families (5 and up)**  
**Time: 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.**

9 Saturday

### Tales n' Trails

The forest is alive with vibrant colors. Join us as we share Lois Ehlert's "Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf" before heading outdoors to identify some of the trees and discuss they're importance to the animals that depend on them. Dress for the weather.

**Ages: 5 - 7**  
**Time: 10:30 - Noon**

10 Sunday

### Missouri Conservation Frontiers: Owl Pellet Study



**Ages: All ages**  
**Time: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

Did you know owls cannot digest the fur, feathers, or bones of the animals they eat? You will dissect your own owl pellet to unlock the mysteries of what that owl ate for dinner as we examine the bones, fur or feathers of the animal! Please call to register.

12 Tuesday

### Conservation Kid's Club: Letterbox Exploration of Burr Oak Woods

Letterboxing is a unique mixture of treasure hunting with exploration of interesting and remote places. We will break up into teams and hit the trails in search of the secret treasure box as well as the secret natural treasures of Burr Oak Woods. Bring water and dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**Ages: 7 - 10**  
**Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

13 Wednesday

### Homeschool: Fall Fun!

Birds are migrating, leaves are changing colors and we're heading out to discover the wonders of the season! Have your children join us for a morning or afternoon of nature discovery and adventure. Please call to register.

**Ages: 3 - 5 and 6 - 8**  
**Times: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Ages: 9 - 11 and 12 and up**  
**Times: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**  
**1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

15 Friday

### Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Trails of Autumn

How about a fabulous fall color hike through one of the largest stands of sugar maples this side of the Mississippi? The trail at Maple Woods is about a mile long and is somewhat hilly, so wear sturdy shoes or boots. Dress for weather. Meet at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center and we will ride together. Please call to register.

**Ages: Families and Friends (all ages)**  
**Time: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

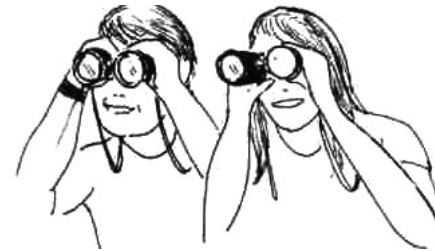


16 Saturday

### Youth Bird Club

We're going to take on the challenge of "lbjs" or "little brown jobs" this month as we go in search of migrating native sparrows from the secretive LeConte's to early season looks at white-throated and white-crowned sparrows. Have your child bring binoculars and a field guide or we'll provide them and be sure they dress for the weather. Please bring water and be sure to call to register.

**Ages: 10 and up**  
**Time: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**



16 Saturday

### Adults Only: Autumn Wild Edibles Workshop

Would you like to take your interest in learning about wild edibles to the next level? This workshop is for you. After a brief introduction, we will hit the trails and let nature be our classroom. We will gather some of the wild plants available, then bring them back inside and learn how to prepare them. In conclusion, we will sit down together to reap the rewards of our work. Please bring gloves and wear clothes to go out in the field. Please call to register.

**Ages: Adults 18 and up**  
**Time: 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.**



17 Sunday

### Hiking Club

Join Burr Oak Woods volunteers for their monthly hike to explore the natural world of the metropolitan area. Be sure to bring water and wear sturdy boots. Please call to register.

**Ages: Adults (18 and up)**  
**Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**



17 Sunday

### NATURE CENTER ICE CREAM SOCIAL

See details in *From the Treetops* on page 2. No registration is required.

**Ages: All ages**  
**Time: 1:00 p.m.**

19 Tuesday

### Little Acorns: Discovery Hike

Step into the past as we become explorers just like Lewis and Clark. We will head out on the trails and discover all of the wonderful plants and wildlife that Burr Oak Woods has to offer. Dress to be outside. Please call to register.

**Ages: 3 - 5**  
**Time: 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.**  
**1:00 - 2:15 p.m.**

23 Saturday

### Little Acorns: Discovery Hike

Step into the past as we become explorers just like Lewis and Clark. We will head out on the trails and discover all of the wonderful plants and wildlife that Burr Oak Woods has to offer. Dress to be outside. Please call to register.

**Ages: 3 - 5**  
**Time: 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.**

23 Saturday

### Fall Colors Hike

This time of year Burr Oak Woods is surrounded by majestic yellows, radiant reds, and oranges. Come out and enjoy the colors of autumn with a hike on one of our beautiful trails. Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**Ages: Families (children 5 and up)**  
**Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

23 Saturday

### Nature Nuts!

Here's a chance for your child to join with like-minded boys and girls for a monthly program that is just for those kids crazy about nature. We'll begin this new program with a look at the world of snakes as we try to figure out venomous vs. non-venomous in the world of slithering serpents. Your child will even get the chance to touch a snake! Please call to register.

**Ages: 7 - 10 years old**  
**Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

24 Sunday

### Adults Only:

#### Lotions, Potions, and Notions:

Join us for a peek into the fascinating world of herbal remedies. We will be learning about some of Missouri's native plants and their various uses. Hike included. Please call to register.

**Ages: Adults 18 and up**  
**Time: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

27 Wednesday

### By the Light of the Full Moon

Who's out and about on the full moon? Join us for an evening stroll under the eclipsing full moon. We'll call for coyotes and owls as we take a peek into the nocturnal world. Please call to register and dress for the weather.

**Ages: Families (children 5 and up)**  
**Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

30 Saturday

### Missouri Conservation Frontiers: Snake Identification

Come meet **EIGHT** of our snakes, **LIVE AND IN PERSON**, in this fun and unique snake ID class. We will share each snake's habitat, diet, and behaviors and explain the difference between venomous and nonvenomous snakes. Please call to register.

**Age: Families (all ages)**  
**Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**  
**2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

31 Sunday

### Amazing FAMILY Race!

Does your family love the outdoors and enjoy competing? Burr Oak Woods will be hosting our own version of the Amazing Race® on our untamed land. We will have a short orienteering class then the race is on! Will your family be victorious? Please call to register.

**Ages: Families (children 7 and up)**  
**Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

